Thomas Andrei interviews Chris Korda for Big Bang Magazine, February 10, 2021

The Church Of Euthanasia started with a dream.

The older religions developed moral philosophy in order to solve societal problems. Larger collections of people required improved cooperative behaviors. These developments in moral philosophy have migrated from religion into civil code, and have allowed the relatively peaceful expansion of the human population.

Now a new problem has become apparent that requires us to improve the moral philosophy that guides our behavior. A new religion is required that encourages humans to cooperate not only among ourselves, but to cooperate with our natural environment. The old religions, which place man above nature, are deficient to address this issue.

All new religions are revolutionary at first. It takes time for society to realize that old beliefs and behaviors are not solving the problems at hand. The Church of Euthanasia has embraced Dada, an anti-establishment art form, in order to emphasize the need for change. New religions often also carry forth some traditions of the past. Myths are rewritten, allegories are made to illustrate moral philosophy, and people demonstrate in the street in support.

That is why the Church of Euthanasia came into being, as manifested to Reverend Chris Korda by The Being one night.

Originally, in the first days of the Church, what did you want to achieve?

The old ways must pass away before the new ways can take hold. Death is a concept that has a long tradition in religion, and it can signify the passing into something better. Heaven awaits those that have suffered. Christ rises from the dead to save man. Persephone arrives from Hades to bring spring from winter.

The issue at hand, man's destruction of the environment that sustains life on earth, demands that the old ways must pass. Greater respect and understanding of the miracle of the web of life must ascend from the greedy materialist past.

You are against procreation. Until what point? Should all humans completely stop procreating?

The old religions developed in conditions much different from today's world: smaller populations, greater conflict, more disease, and no social safety net. In those conditions, child bearing was a tradition that had benefits for society. Much of contemporary attitudes about child bearing derive from those medieval norms. With the vast increase of human population, those norms are no longer constructive, and must be revised. To prevent children from being born into an environmental nightmare, our attitudes about child bearing must change.

Where did you grow up?

In New York City.

What sort of childhood did you have?

I spent most of my childhood reading, drawing, and making things.

What do you want to achieve?

If life on earth should perish, the loss of human culture and knowledge would be one of the many tragedies. The universe is utterly indifferent to humanity's fate. Due to scientific ignorance, older religions put humanity at the center of the universe and failed to see that we live in a symbiotic relationship with the rest of the earth. That oversight was unimportant when the human population was small, but now with billions of people destructively consuming nature, the oversight must be corrected. This does not diminish our regard for human life, for unlike the indifferent universe,

we do want nature and our place in it to persist.

Do you see this as something everyone should decide to do, or do you think states or global organisations should enforce the end of procreation?

The Church of Euthanasia seeks to restore balance between humans and the remaining non-human species through *voluntary* population reduction. The Church has only one commandment—thou shalt not procreate—and members are obliged to take a lifetime vow of non-procreation. Technologically mediated procreation—surrogacy or donation of sperm or eggs—is similarly forbidden, but adoption is encouraged. Everything else, including veganism, is optional.

The church also supports four core concepts or "pillars": people should have the right to determine the time, place and manner of their death; women should have the right to control life and death within their own bodies; people should strive to avoid killing or harming other sentient beings; and all forms of diversity, including sexual, gender, genetic, and biological diversity, should be celebrated.

The Church of Euthanasia's most famous slogan—Save the Planet, Kill Yourself—is neo-Dadaism. The slogan is paradoxical because it's not the planet that needs saving; on the contrary, it's humanity and particularly our fragile civilization that need to be saved. Civilization is the most endangered species on earth.

In the words of molecular biologist Joshua Lederberg, "The survival of the human species is not a preordained evolutionary program." We face diminishing returns on complexity and societal collapse is an increasingly probable outcome. The cascading side effects of our previous misdeeds are multiplying rapidly, and what James Kunstler aptly termed "the long emergency" is already underway.

The primary cause of the human crisis is lack of education. The Church of Euthanasia educates people about reality, so that they can grasp the seriousness of our existential predicament and learn to value the non-human species on which our collective survival depends.

The Church also provides an ethical framework in which biological diversity, evidence-based knowledge, and the long-term survival of human and non-human life are axiomatically good. This framework encourages people to enrich their lives by contributing to the solution of many urgent problems, including overpopulation, climate change, mass extinction, and intergenerational injustice.